

We claim:

1. An article of manufacture having applied thereto a group of marks arranged for associating a specific person with said article, the group of marks collectively being useful for identifying said person and said marks being collectively derived from physical characteristics of said person.
2. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks are derived from characteristics of a fingerprint of said person.
3. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks are derived from characteristics of an eye of said person.
4. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks are derived from characteristics of a face of said person.
5. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks are unobtrusive to an unaided human eye.
6. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks are detectable by optical means.
7. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks are overlaid over a photograph of said person.
8. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks comprises at least two sub-groups of marks, each sub-group of marks being derived from a specific group of physical characteristics of said person.

9. An article of manufacture according to claim 8 wherein at least one of said at least two sub-groups of marks is derived from characteristics of a fingerprint of said person.
10. An article of manufacture according to claim 8 wherein at least one of said at least two sub-groups of marks is derived from characteristics of an eye of said person.
11. An article of manufacture according to claim 8 wherein at least one of said at least one of said at least two sub-groups of marks is derived from characteristics of a face of said person.
12. An article of manufacture according to claim 8 wherein each sub-group of marks of said at least two sub-groups of marks is separately detectable by using detection means.
13. An article of manufacture according to claim 12 wherein said detection means comprises different wavelengths of light.
14. An article of manufacture according to claim 12 wherein adjustment of said detection means allows for detection of different sub-groups of marks.
15. An article of manufacture according to claim 8 wherein different sub-groups of marks comprise differently sized indicia.
16. An article of manufacture according to claim 8 wherein different sub-groups of marks comprise differently shaped indicia.
17. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks is placed in an area containing other data.
18. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks is a result of applying a visual transformation process to a data set derived from said physical characteristics

of said person.

19. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said article has at least one predefined area where said group of marks is printed.

20. An article of manufacture according to claim 19 wherein said predefined area contains data other than said group of marks.

21. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks is printed on said article.

22. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 where in said group of marks is embossed on said article.

23. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks is engraved on said article.

24. A constellation of marks applied to a predefined area of an article of manufacture a positioning of each mark of said constellation of marks in said area being derived from a physical characteristic of a specific person such that a collective arrangement of said constellation of marks is unique to said person, said constellation of marks being useful for associating said article to said person.

25. A constellation of marks according to claim 24 wherein said physical characteristic is found on a body part of said person.

26. A constellation of marks according to claim 25 wherein said body part is a finger.

27. A constellation of marks according to claim 25 wherein said body part is an eye.

28. A constellation of marks according to claim 25 wherein said body part is a face.
29. A constellation of marks according to claim 24 wherein said specific area contains data other than said constellation of marks.
30. A constellation of marks according to claim 29 wherein said specific area contains a photograph of said person.
31. A constellation of marks according to claim 30 wherein said constellation of marks are overlaid on said photograph.
32. A constellation of marks according to claim 25 wherein said constellation comprises at least two sub-groups of marks, each sub-group of marks corresponding to physical characteristics found on different body parts.
33. A constellation of marks according to claim 32 wherein each sub-group is separately detectable by an adjustment of optical illumination means.
34. A constellation of marks according to claim 33 wherein said adjustment adjusts a wavelength of light being used to detect said sub-groups.
35. A constellation of marks according to claim 24 wherein a position of at least one of said marks is visually transformed such that said position is adjusted.
36. A constellation of marks according to claim 35 wherein said position is adjusted according to a predetermined mathematical formula.
37. A constellation of marks according to claim 35 wherein an original position of said at least one of said marks is recoverable.

38. A method of matching an article of manufacture with a specific person, the method comprising:

- a) detecting a graphical constellation of marks applied to said article, said constellation being applied to a specific area of said article;
- b) processing said constellation of marks to result in a graphical representation useful for comparison with a data set associated with said person;
- c) acquiring said data set associated with said person;
- d) comparing said data set and said representation to determine a likelihood of a match between said data set and said representation; and
- e) if a likelihood exceeds a predetermined threshold, associating said article with said person.

39. A method according to claim 38 wherein step a) includes illuminating said specific area with light having a specified wavelength.

40. A method according to claim 38 wherein step b) includes optically scanning said constellation of marks detected in step a).

41. A method according to claim 38 wherein step b) includes applying a visual transformation process to said constellation of marks to recover original positions of said constellation of marks.

42. A method according to claim 38 wherein step b) includes mapping said constellation on to a predefined grid.

43. A method according to claim 38 wherein step c) includes accessing a database and retrieving said data set.

44. A method according to claim 38 wherein step c) includes directly acquiring said data set from said person by way of a biometric acquisition system.

45. A method according to claim 38 wherein said constellation of marks comprises a constellation of marks applied to a predefined area of an article of manufacture, a positioning of each mark of said constellation of marks in said area being derived from a physical characteristic of a specific person such that a collective arrangement of said constellation of marks is unique to said person, said constellation of marks being useful for associating said article to said person.

46. A method according to claim 38 wherein said article comprises an article of manufacture having applied thereto said constellation of marks arranged for associating a specific person with said article, the constellation of marks collectively being useful for identifying said marks being collectively derived from physical characteristics of said person.

47. An article of manufacture according to claim 1 wherein said group of marks is applied to said article by three dimensional marking means.